

# SPAWN



ASHLEY  
WOOD  
2016  
+FCO



image

274

DIGITAL  
EDITION

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SPAWN CREATED BY  
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#### PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Sam and Twitch are summoned by the police to help with the case of The Soul Crusher. After interviewing the victim's father, they are at a loss. Elsewhere, Spawn and Cyan meet at Earl in an alleyway. A dark car approaches and out of the back, springs Terry, Cyan's dad, who has come back after going missing for some time. They embrace and have a loving reunion. Back at the asylum where Cyan escaped from, an innocent doctor is surprised by the Soul Crusher, who wants information on where Cyan has gone.






HER NAME WAS DR. EMMA CANTERI. ALL SHE EVER WANTED WAS TO HELP THOSE IN NEED. AS A YOUNG GIRL, SHE VOLUNTEERED AT AN ANIMAL SHELTER. IN HER TEENS, IT WAS A HOMELESS SHELTER. BY HIGH SCHOOL SHE KNEW SHE WANTED TO BE A DOCTOR. BY AGE TWENTY-EIGHT SHE WAS ONE.

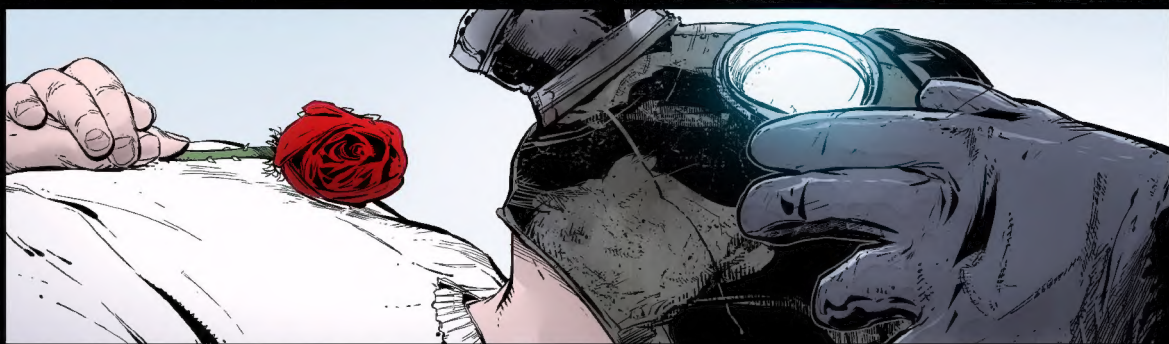


AND SHE HAD GOTTEN HER 'DREAM JOB' BY JOINING A STAFF THAT HELPED TEENAGERS BATTLING DRUG ADDICTION.



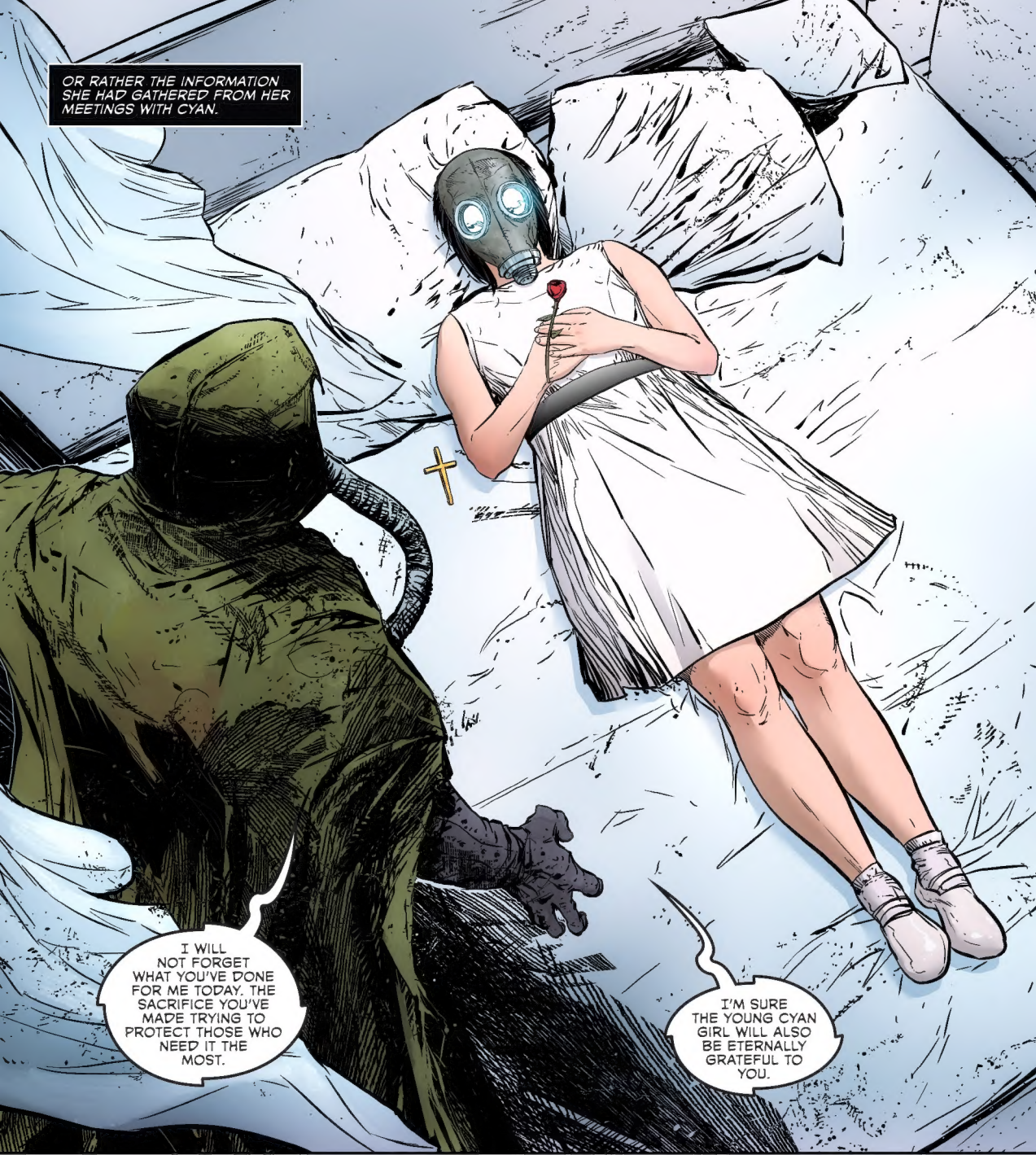
THIS WAS HER CALLING. HER PURPOSE IN LIFE. IT'S ALSO WHERE SHE MET A PATIENT NAMED CYAN FITZGERALD. A YOUTH WHO HAD LOST HER MOTHER AND WAS RECENTLY IN THE NEWS FOR DISAPPEARING FROM THE FACILITY DR. CANTERI WORKED AT.

SADLY, IT WAS MEETING AND HELPING CYAN THAT HAS NOW COST DR. CANTERI HER LIFE.



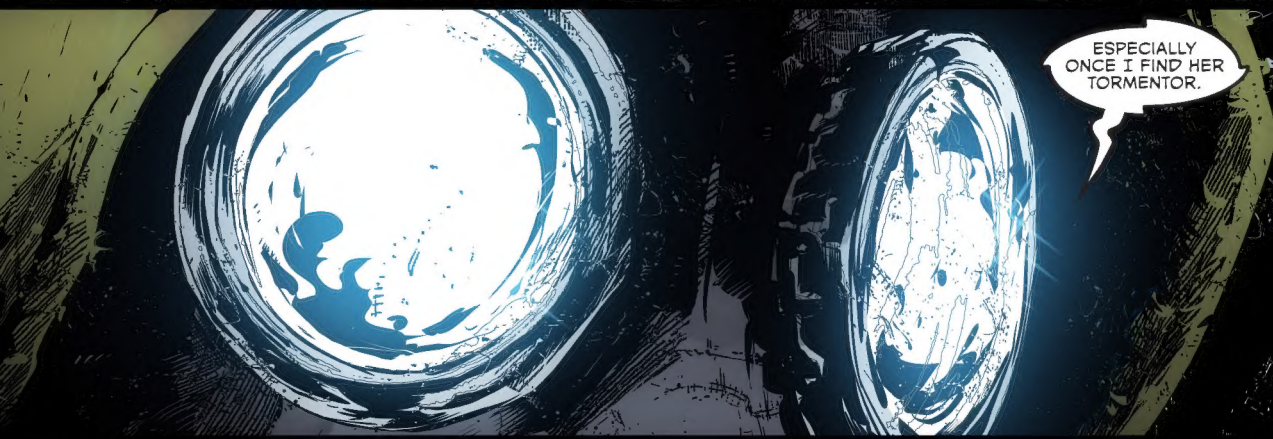


OR RATHER THE INFORMATION  
SHE HAD GATHERED FROM HER  
MEETINGS WITH CYAN.



I WILL  
NOT FORGET  
WHAT YOU'VE DONE  
FOR ME TODAY. THE  
SACRIFICE YOU'VE  
MADE TRYING TO  
PROTECT THOSE WHO  
NEED IT THE  
MOST.

I'M SURE  
THE YOUNG CYAN  
GIRL WILL ALSO  
BE ETERNALLY  
GRATEFUL TO  
YOU.

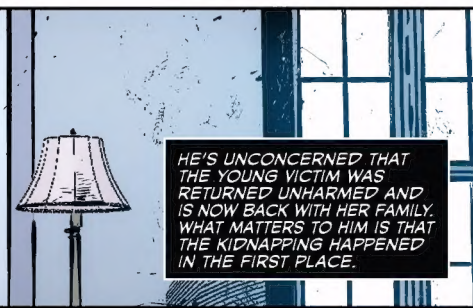
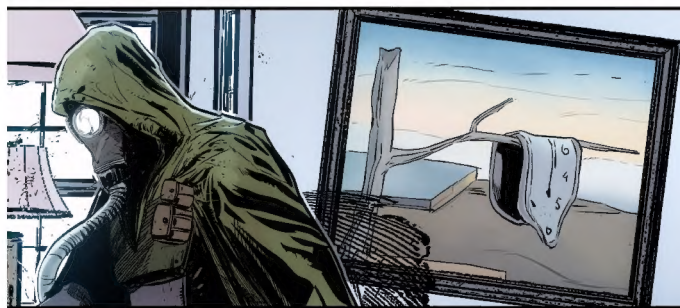
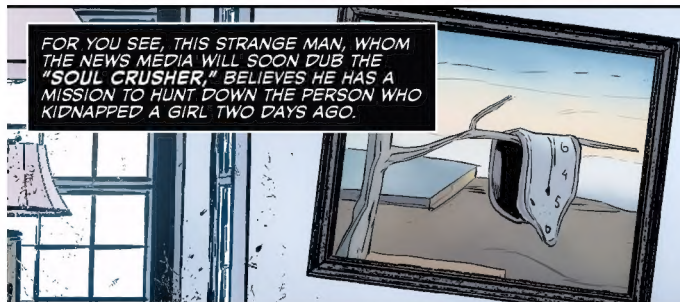


ESPECIALLY  
ONCE I FIND HER  
TORMENTOR.





FOR YOU SEE, THIS STRANGE MAN, WHOM THE NEWS MEDIA WILL SOON DUB THE "SOUL CRUSHER," BELIEVES HE HAS A MISSION TO HUNT DOWN THE PERSON WHO KIDNAPPED A GIRL TWO DAYS AGO.



HE'S UNCONCERNED THAT THE YOUNG VICTIM WAS RETURNED UNHARMED AND IS NOW BACK WITH HER FAMILY. WHAT MATTERS TO HIM IS THAT THE KIDNAPPING HAPPENED IN THE FIRST PLACE.

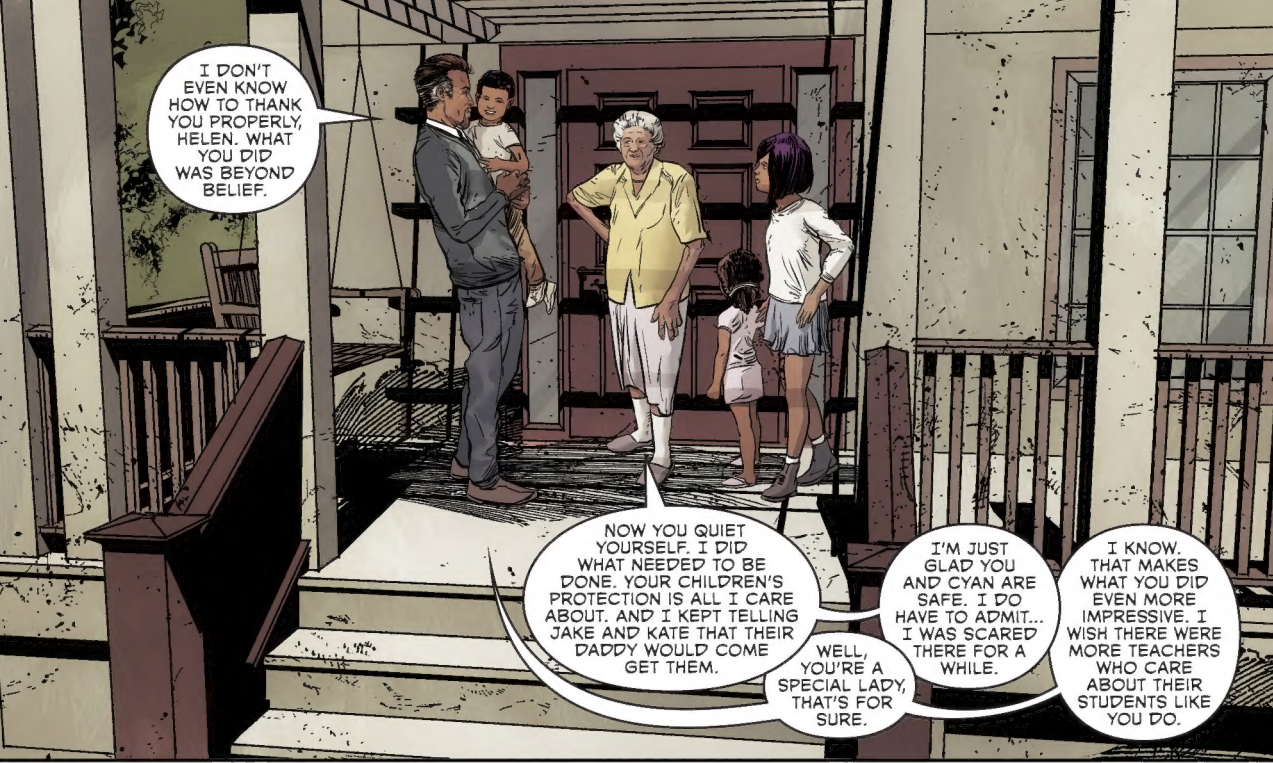


HIS JOB IS TO FIX THINGS.



AND HIS LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE AT DOING SO ALLOWS HIM TO SIMPLY WALK OUT THE FRONT DOOR OF DR. CANTER'S HOUSE DESPITE THE FACT HE'D STRANGLED HER TO DEATH.

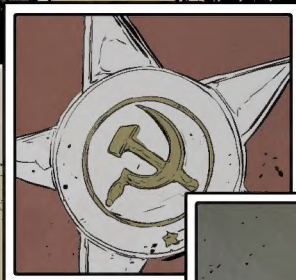








CHINATOWN. FRED'S  
MILITARY SUPPLY STORE.



Jesus.  
270 dollars?!  
I don't even know  
what it is.



ANY IDEA  
WHERE A PERSON  
WOULD ACQUIRE  
A MASK LIKE  
THAT?

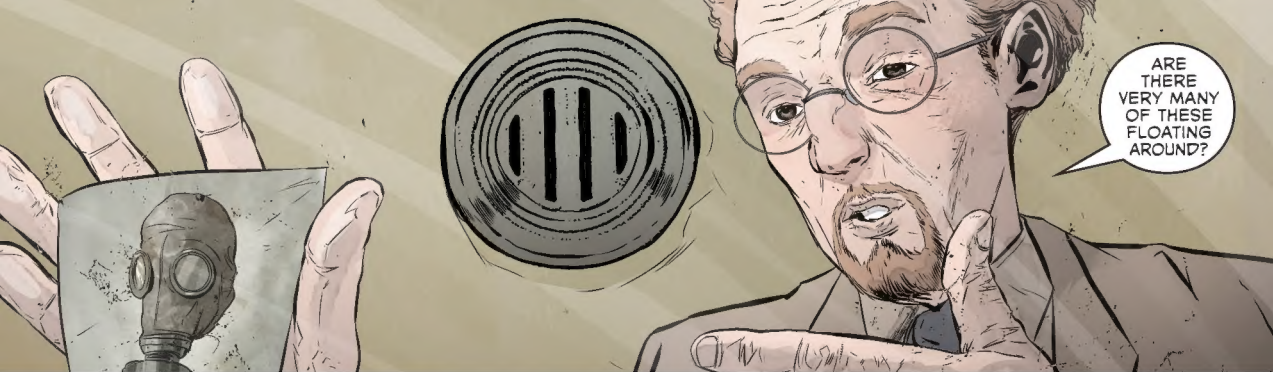
I CHECKED  
MY DATABASE, BUT  
SOMETHING  
THAT VINTAGE--  
THOSE ARE HARD TO  
COME BY.

SO, YOU  
THINK IT'S  
AUTHENTIC?



FOR SURE.  
FROM THE DESIGN  
OF THE RESPIRATOR,  
IT WAS MOST LIKELY  
MADE IN POLAND  
AROUND 1910.





ARE THERE VERY MANY OF THESE FLOATING AROUND?



LIKE I TOLD YOU OVER THE PHONE... IF IT'S REAL, WHICH I THINK IT IS, THAT MASK, IN DECENT CONDITION, GOES FOR OVER TWO GRAND... IF YOU CAN FIND ONE. EVEN MORE FOR THE DOG'S MASK.

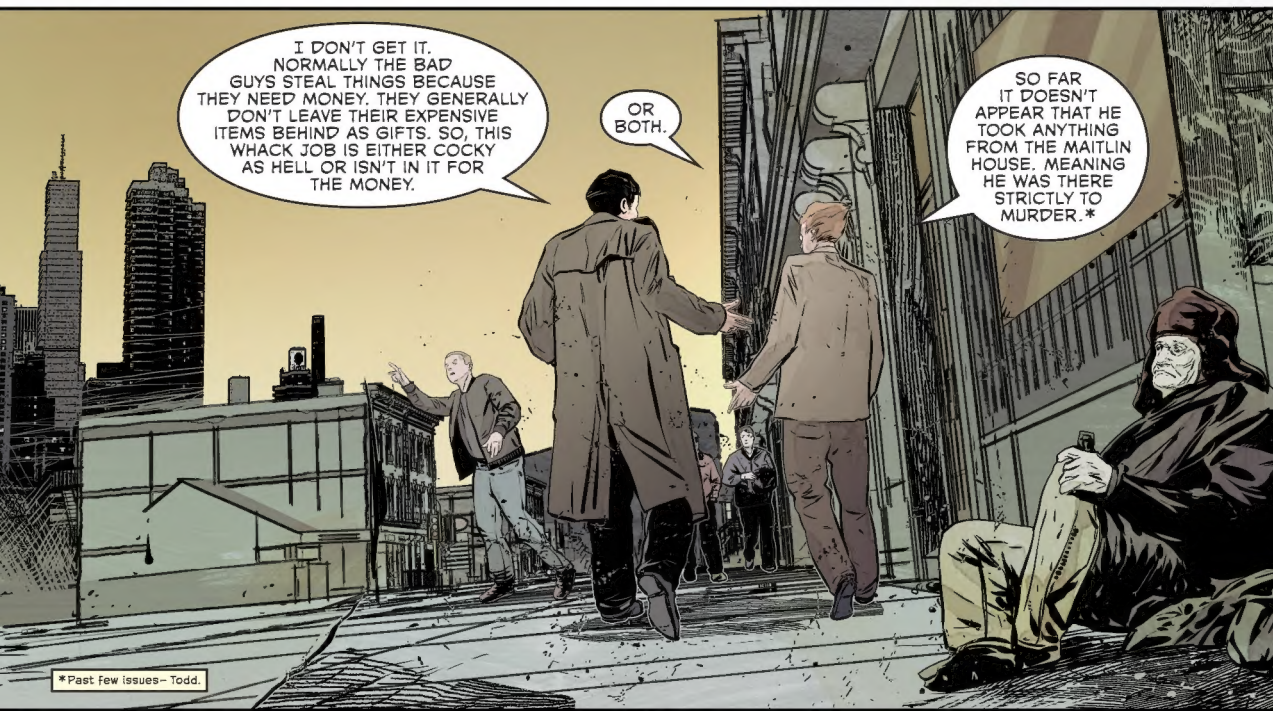


TWO GRAND?

YEP. WHOEVER OWNED THEM, THEY'RE NOT STARVING THAT'S FOR SURE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE.

ANY TIME.

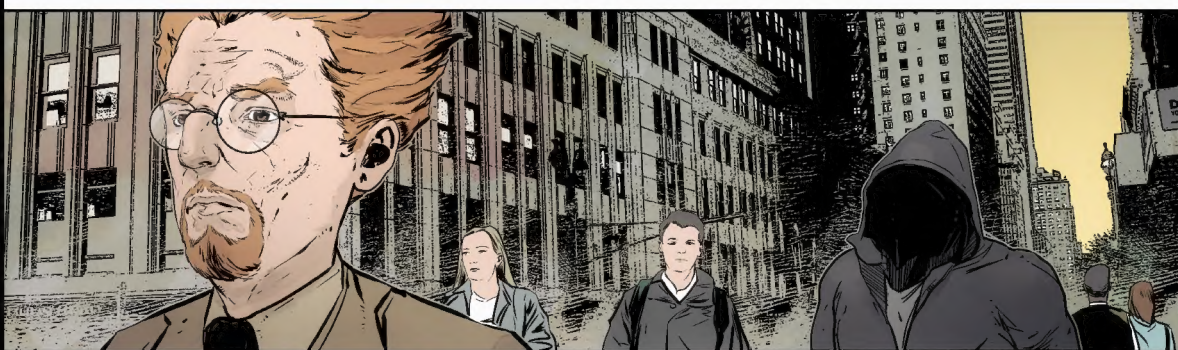
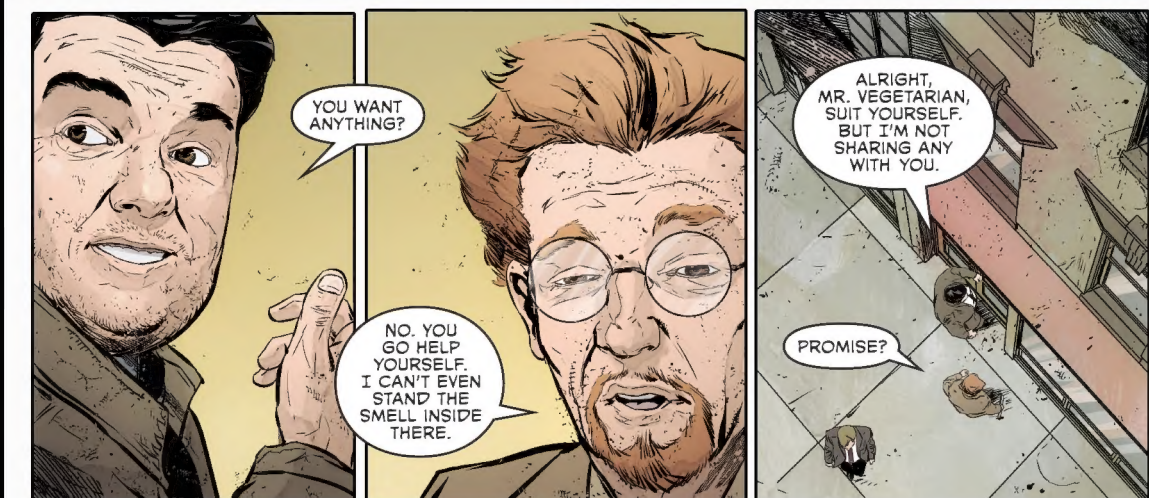
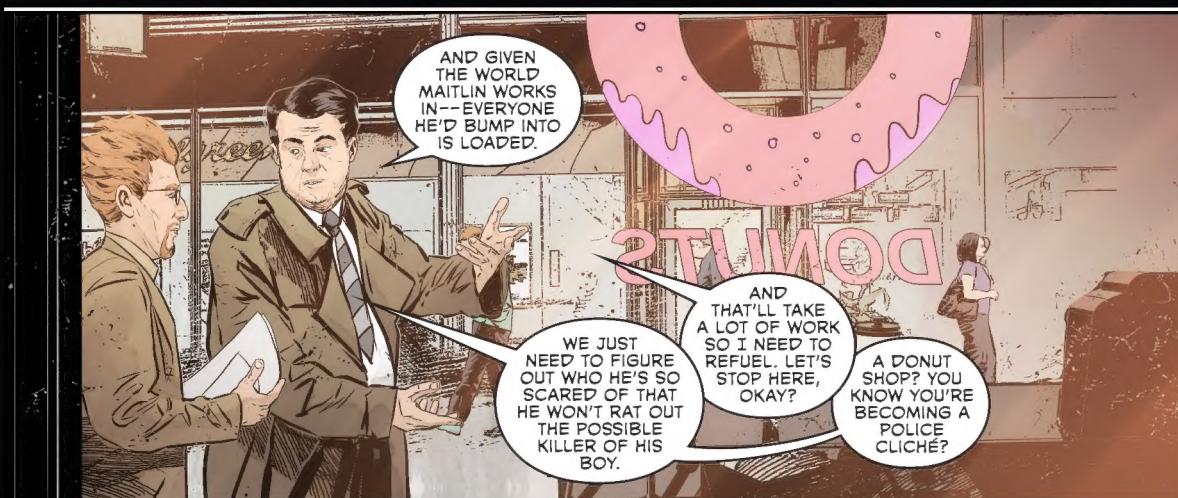


I DON'T GET IT. NORMALLY THE BAD GUYS STEAL THINGS BECAUSE THEY NEED MONEY. THEY GENERALLY DON'T LEAVE THEIR EXPENSIVE ITEMS BEHIND AS GIFTS. SO, THIS WHACK JOB IS EITHER COCKY AS HELL OR ISN'T IN IT FOR THE MONEY.

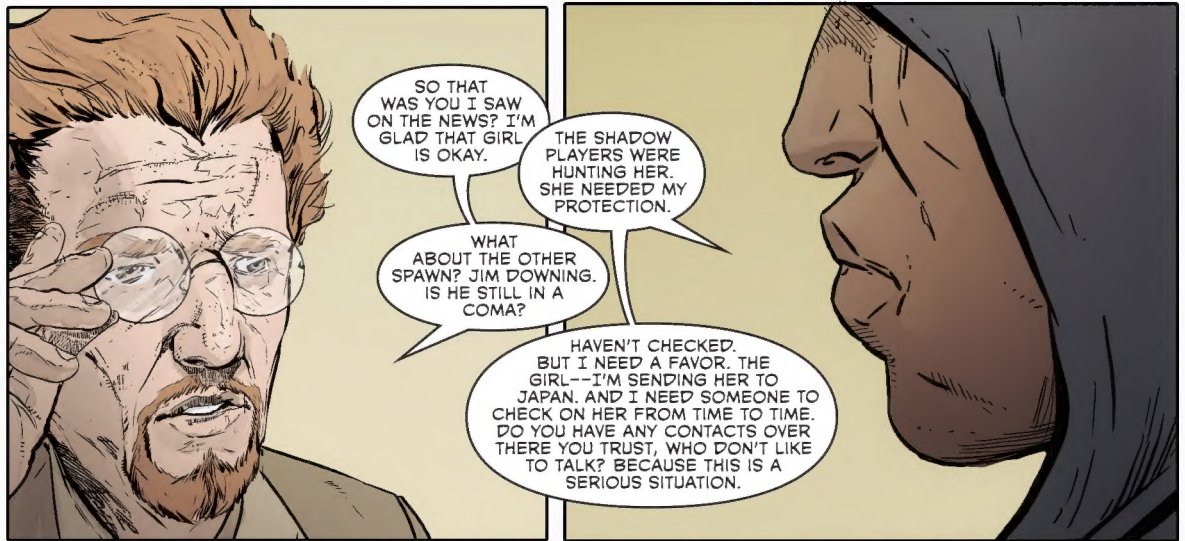
OR BOTH.

SO FAR IT DOESN'T APPEAR THAT HE TOOK ANYTHING FROM THE MAILIN HOUSE. MEANING HE WAS THERE STRICTLY TO MURDER.\*

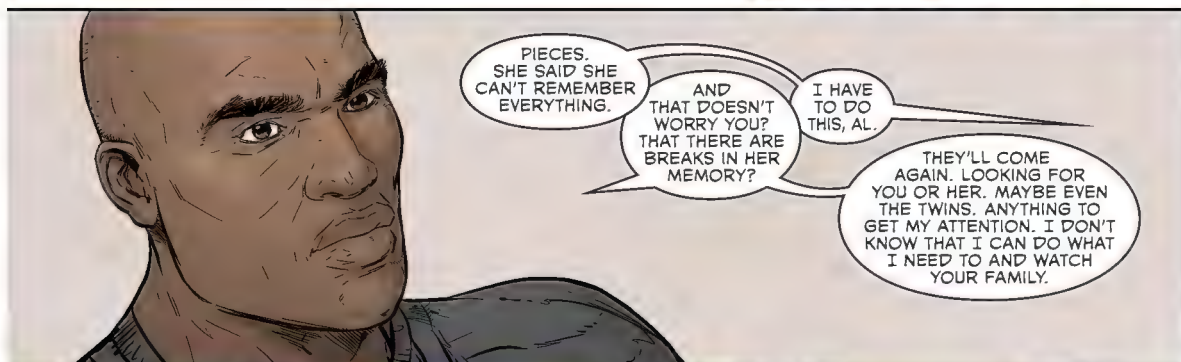
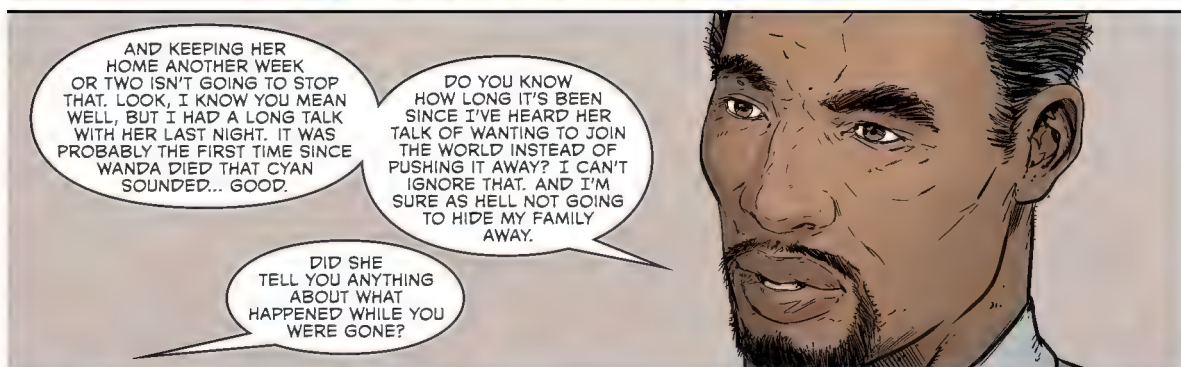
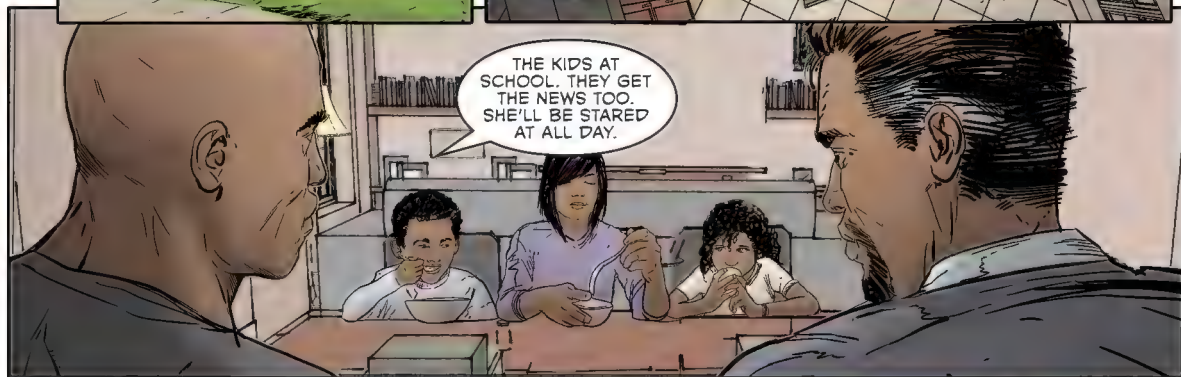
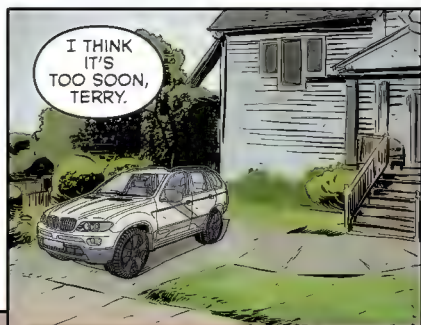








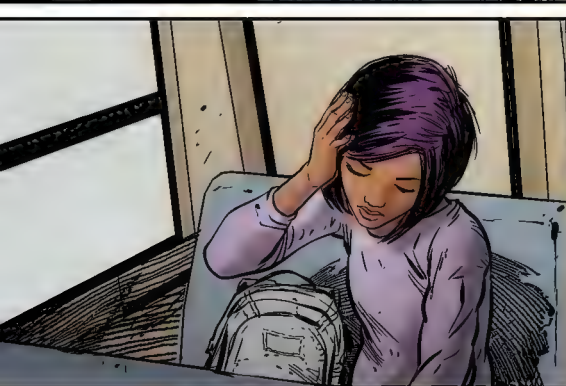








CYAN REALLY DID WANT TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL BUT LIKE ANY TEENAGER, SHE STILL DREADED WHAT THE OTHER STUDENTS WOULD BE THINKING ABOUT HER. SHE KNEW THEY MUST HAVE HEARD THE RUMORS OF HER DRUG USE AND BECAUSE OF HER "KIDNAPPING", THE NEWS REPORTED SHE WAS IN A REHABILITATION FACILITY.



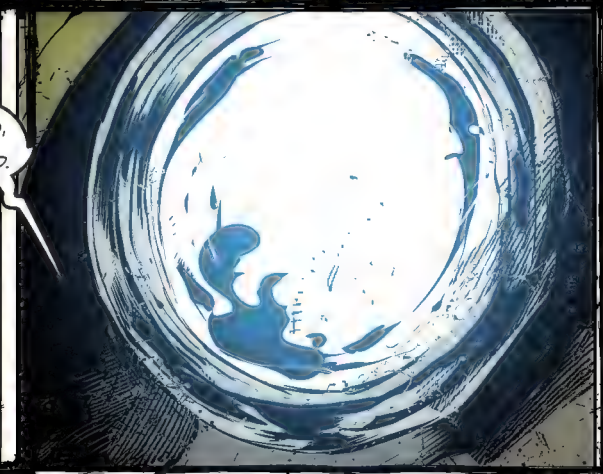
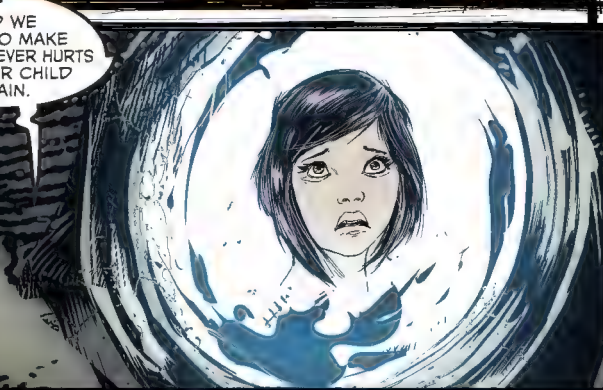
BUT WHAT SHE'S MOST ANXIOUS ABOUT IS SOMETHING ELSE...WHAT IF HER 'WEIRD-POWERS-THING' STARTS UP WHILE SHE'S AT SCHOOL?

BUT SHE'LL NEVER KNOW NOW...

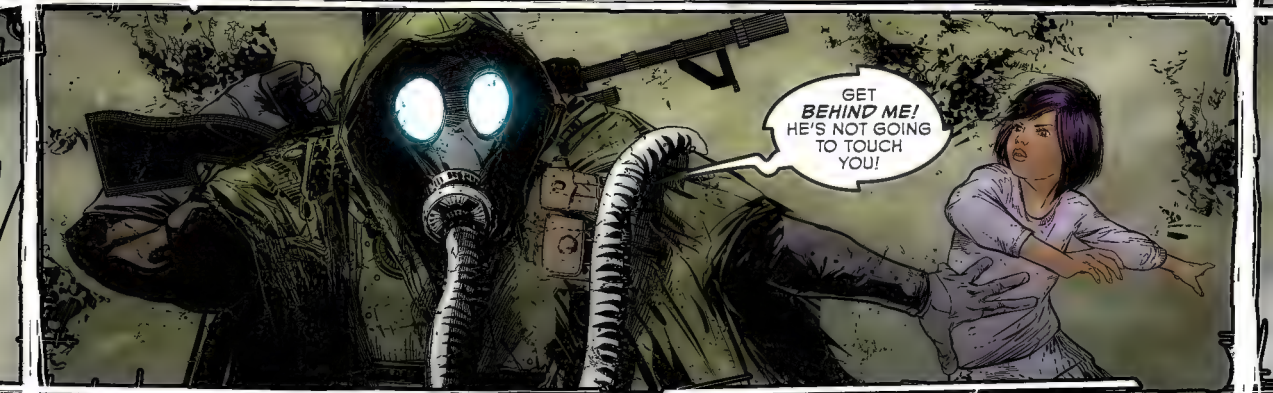


...BECAUSE SHE'LL NEVER MAKE IT BACK TO SCHOOL.









GET  
BEHIND ME!  
HE'S NOT GOING  
TO TOUCH  
YOU!



SPAWN HAS A CLEAN SHOT BUT CYAN IS TOO CLOSE TO HIS TARGET. HE WON'T ENDANGER ANY OF THE KIDS, SOME WHO ARE STILL HURT, INSIDE THE BUS.

THAT HESITATION GIVES SOUL CRUSHER THE OPENING SALVO.

**RUN!**

ALL OF YOU!

THOSE HEALTHY ENOUGH HEED HIS WORDS.





AND HE FINALLY HAS HIS SHOT. BUT SPAWN HASN'T ANTICIPATED THAT SOUL CRUSHER'S SUIT HAS BEEN AUGMENTED FOR MOVEMENT FASTER THAN A NORMAL HUMAN.

**BLAM  
BLAM**



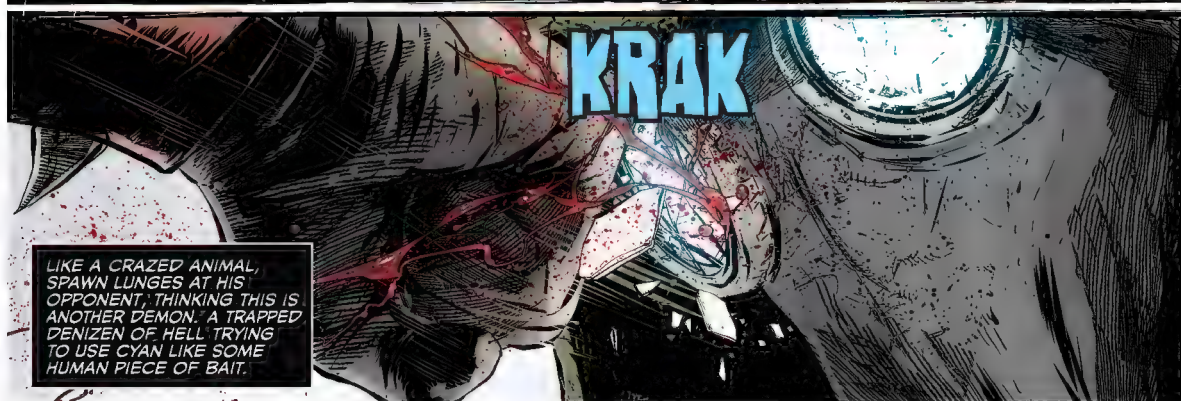
**KRAKOW**



I WARNED YOU.



**GOD DAMN IT!**  
I TOLD YOUR SIDE TO LEAVE HER ALONE!



**KRAK**

LIKE A CRAZED ANIMAL, SPAWN LUNGES AT HIS OPPONENT, THINKING THIS IS ANOTHER DEMON. A TRAPPED DENIZEN OF HELL TRYING TO USE CYAN LIKE SOME HUMAN PIECE OF BAIT.





IF NOT FOR THE FORTIFIED ARMOR HE WEARS, SOUL CRUSHER WOULD BE DEAD ALREADY.



TELL THEM!  
TELL THEM ALL! I'M  
COMING FOR THEM  
NOW! THIS IS GOING TO  
**STOP!**



YOU'RE  
INSANE!  
I'M HERE  
ALONE.




UNSEEN TO SPAWN, SOUL  
CRUSHER RELEASES A TOXIC  
GAS THAT BURNS THE SKIN IN  
A MATTER OF SECONDS.



AND EVEN  
AGAINST A MAN  
MADE IN HELL,  
THE PAIN IS  
EXCRUCIATING.





HE NEEDS TO LIMIT HIS BREATHING OR ELSE SPAWN KNOWS HE MAY VERY WELL LOSE THIS BATTLE. HIS CAPE WRAPS HIS FACE BUT IN DOING SO IT HAS PARTIALLY TRAPPED HIS ARMS.

LEAVING HIM WITH ONLY ONE LAST WEAPON...




HIS CHAINS.



HELP!  
SOMEONE  
HELP  
ME!




INSTINCTIVELY HIS CHAINS SHOOT INTO THE AIR.




A GIRL...  
PINNED BENEATH  
THE BUS.





SPAWN BETS A MULTI-PRONGED  
ATTACK FROM ABOVE WILL  
CONFUSE HIS ASSAILANT.


IT DOES.



AS THE STREET'S ASPHALT  
EXPLODES, THEN COLLAPSES,  
IT SWALLOWS THE VILLAIN WHOLE.



THOUGH NOTHING MATTERS  
MORE THAN THE LITTLE GIRL IN  
DESPERATE NEED OF HELP.



SPAWN CURSES  
HIMSELF THAT HE'S  
BARELY MORE  
THAN A STRONG  
MAN, BECAUSE THE  
BUS WON'T MOVE.

LET ME  
HELP  
YOU.

THEN CYAN  
GENTLY TOUCHES  
SPAWN'S ARM.

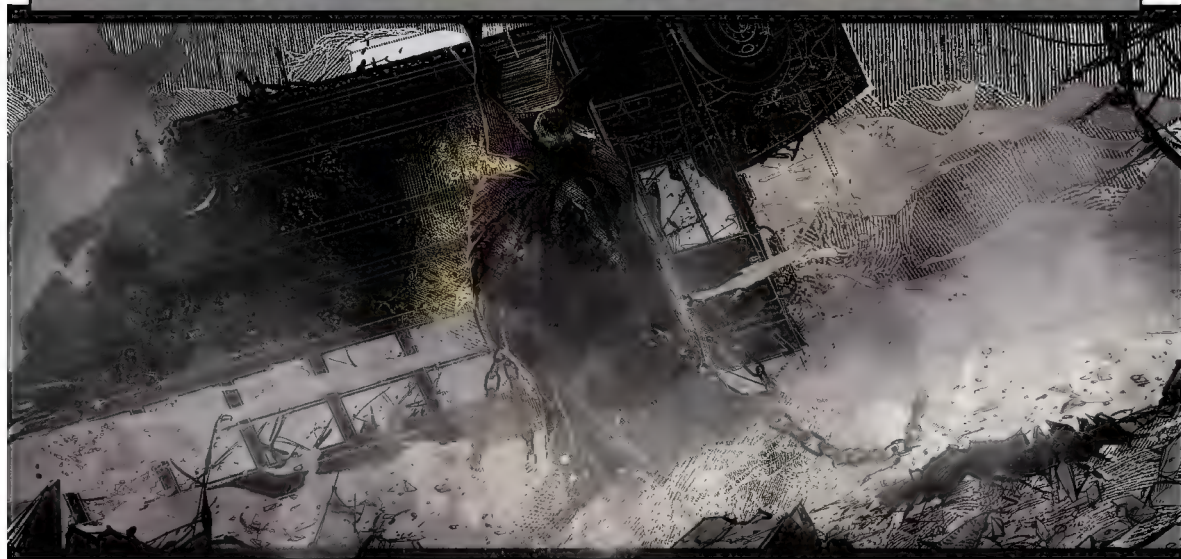


IT SENDS A SMALL  
IMPULSE UP HIS  
ARM... WITH A RESULT  
THAT FOREVER BE  
RECALL BY THOSE  
WHO WITNESSED IT.

GO!  
BOTH OF  
YOU!











IS HE  
DOWN  
THERE?

NO.

THE HOLE  
BREACHED A  
SEWER LINE.  
I'M SURE HE'S  
LONG GONE  
BY NOW.

WHO  
WAS  
HE?

NOT  
SURE. HE  
DIDN'T ACT  
LIKE WHO I  
THOUGHT  
HE WAS.

WHAT  
DID YOU  
THINK HE  
WAS?

A DEMON.  
BUT WE CAN  
TALK LATER.  
CYAN?



CAN  
YOU DO THAT  
INVISIBLE THING  
YOU DO?

I'LL  
TRY.



IN A BLINK THEY'RE GONE.  
LEAVING BEHIND CARNAGE  
THAT WILL BECOME ANOTHER  
TOP NEWS STORY. BUT THIS  
HAS SEALED WHAT SPAWN  
ALREADY KNEW... THAT CYAN  
ISN'T SAFE LIVING IN  
AMERICA ANY LONGER.



# SPAWNING GROUND

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## MONTHLY CONTEST

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Each month readers will be giving a secret code word available ONLY in Spawning Ground.

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Spawn 274 Code Word: **SOULCRUSHER**

Winners will be notified by email two weeks after the release of the comic.

Good Luck!

Thank you all for being loyal fans of Spawn!

Shannon Bailey  
Publishing Coordinator



### NEXT ISSUE

The Soul Crusher continues his reign of terror, but Sam and Twitch are on the case. They vow to bring him down.



COMING  
JULY



PABLO RAIMONDI  
& KLAUS JANSON

# SACRED CREATURES

SOME SINS WILL FOLLOW YOU...



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**VELVET** DEADLY CLASS *THE FUSE*  
*LAZARUS* **EAST OF WEST** I KILL GIANTS  
**THE WALKING DEAD** I HATE FAIRYLAND  
KING CITY *SEX CRIMINALS*  
COPPERHEAD  
**THE HUMANS** RATQUEENS

SOUTHERN BASTARDS **SPAWN ORIGINS** THE WICKED + THE DIVINE  
**MONSTRESS CHEW** *SPREAD*  
**NOWHERE MEN**

**HOWTOONS** THEY'RE NOT LIKE US **SUNSTONE** MANIFEST DESTINY

DESCENDER *PAPER GIRLS*

**OCTOPUS PIE** WYTCHEs SHUTTER

TOKYO GHOST THE MANHATTAN PROJECTS **BITCH PLANET**

**SAGA** *CHRONONAUTS* **WAYWARD** *TREES*  
THE AUTUMNLANDS

CRIMINAL **LOW**

REVIVAL **NAILBITER**

CAMP MIDNIGHT

RUMBLE **ODDLY NORMAL**

**HINGES**

**BLACK SCIENCE**

PRETTY DEADLY

THE FADE OUT

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